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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Dear Father, we confess our total dependence on You, not only for every breath we breathe but also for every ingenious thought we think. You are the source of our strength, the author of our vision, and the instigator of our creativity.

We begin this day with praise that You have chosen us to serve You. All our talents, education, and experience have been entrusted to us by You. Today, the needs before us will bring forth the expression of Your creative, divine intelligence from within us. Thank You in advance for Your provision of exactly what we will need to serve You. We trust You completely. This is Your day; You will show the way; we will respond to Your guidance without delay. Through our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, the distinguished Senator from Oklahoma, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m. At 11 a.m. the Senate will proceed to the cloture vote on H.R. 2646, the A-plus education savings account bill. If cloture is not invoked, the majority leader hopes consent will be granted to set the cloture vote on a motion to proceed to S. 1269, the fast-track legislation, at 2:30 p.m. If that is not possible, the Senate will recess following the 11 a.m. vote until 2:30 p.m. Otherwise, under

the consent the Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. for the weekly policy luncheons to meet. When the Senate reconvenes at 2:30 p.m., the Senate will proceed to the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S. 1269, the fast-track legislation. If cloture is invoked, the Senate will begin debate on the motion to proceed to S. 1269.

In addition, the Senate may also consider and complete action on the D.C. appropriations bill, the FDA Reform conference report, the Intelligence authorization conference report, and any additional legislative or executive items that can be cleared for action. Therefore, Members can anticipate rollcall votes throughout Tuesday's session of the Senate.

As a reminder to all Members, the first rollcall vote will occur at 11 a.m.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators will have until the time of the vote for filing of second-degree amendments to H.R. 2646, the A-plus Education Savings Act.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business until the hour of 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes, with the following exceptions: Senator HATCH for 20 minutes; Senator COVERDELL for 15 minutes; Senator ROBERTS for 20 minutes; Senator DODD for 5 minutes.

The able Senator from Utah is recognized for 20 minutes.

THE NOMINATION OF BILL LANN LEE

I. INTRODUCTION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise this morning to discuss the nomination of Mr. Bill Lann Lee of California to be President Clinton's Assistant Attorney

General for Civil Rights. Let me say at the outset that, in my 5 years as the senior Republican on the Judiciary Committee, I have been proud to have advanced no less than 230 of President Clinton's nominees to the Federal courts. After a thorough review of these nominees' views and records, I have supported the confirmation of all but two of them. In addition, I have also worked to ensure that President Clinton's Justice Department nominees receive a fair, expeditious, and thorough review. Without question, the Senate's advice and consent responsibility is one that I take very seriously. This nomination is no exception.

While I have the highest personal regard for Bill Lann Lee, his record and his responses to questions posed by the committee suggest a distorted view of the law that makes it difficult for me in good conscience to support his nomination to be the chief enforcer of the Nation's civil rights laws. The Assistant Attorney General must be America's civil rights law enforcer, not the civil rights ombudsman for the political left. Accordingly, when the Judiciary Committee votes on whether to report his nomination to the full Senate, I will regretfully vote "no".

At the outset, I want to say that no one in this body respects and appreciates the compelling personal history of Mr. Lee and his family more than I. Mr. Lee's parents came to these shores full of hope for the future. They believed in the promise of America. And despite meager circumstances and the scourge of bigotry, they worked hard, educated their children, and never lost faith in this great country.

Yet, what we must never forget as we take up this debate is that the sum of our experiences says less about who we become than does what we take from those experiences. For example, my good friend Justice Clarence Thomas was, like Mr. Lee, born into a circumstance where opportunities were

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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